

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 8, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 6, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2430

**Introduced by Assembly Member Umberg
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Leno)**

February 23, 2006

An act to add Section 9054 to the Elections Code, relating to ballot measures.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2430, as amended, Umberg. Ballot materials: translations.

Existing federal law, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, requires every state or political subdivision meeting certain criteria to provide bilingual voting materials to citizens of language minorities to ensure their full participation in the electoral process.

The California Constitution and existing state law requires the Legislature to prohibit improper practices that affect elections, including a citizen's right to vote.

This bill would require the Secretary of State, *as specified*, to provide a translation of the ballot title and ~~summary~~ *the condensed statement* of ballot materials in a language other than English to the local elections official whenever a city ~~or, county, or city and county~~ is required to do so by the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 for each state measure submitted to the voters in a statewide election *not later than 68 days prior to that election*.

The bill would also require the local elections official to use that translation, as specified, and would prohibit him or her from selecting

or contracting with another person to provide translations of the same text.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 9054 is added to the Elections Code, to
2 read:

3 9054. (a) Whenever a ~~city or~~ city, county, or city and county
4 is required by Section 203 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1973aa-1a) or Section
5 4(f)(4) (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1973b(f)(4)) of the federal Voting Rights
6 Act of 1965 (~~42 U.S.C. Sec. 1973aa-1a~~) to provide a translation
7 of ballot materials in a language other than English, the Secretary
8 of State shall provide a translation of the ballot title ~~and summary~~
9 *prepared pursuant to Section 9050 and of the condensed*
10 *statement of the ballot title prepared pursuant to Section 13247*
11 *in that language to the* ~~city or~~ city, county, or city and county for
12 each state measure submitted to the voters in a statewide election
13 *not later than 68 days prior to that election.*

14 (b) *When preparing a translation in a language other than*
15 *English pursuant to subdivision (a), the Secretary of State shall*
16 *consult with an advisory body consisting of language experts and*
17 *nonpartisan organizations that advocate on behalf of, or provide*
18 *services to, individuals that speak that language.*

19 (c) *All translations prepared pursuant to this section shall be*
20 *made available for public examination in the same time and*
21 *manner as the ballot pamphlet is made available for public*
22 *examination in accordance with Section 88006 of the*
23 *Government Code and Section 9092 of this code.*

24 ~~(b)~~

25 (d) *The local elections official shall use that translation of the*
26 *condensed statement of the ballot title on the sample ballot and*
27 *the official ballot and may not select or contract with another*
28 *person to provide translations of the same text.*